

GEBCO newsletter Sept 2004

Number 3

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No, you didn't miss the August newsletter, I did. Moving offices from one country to another was not that hard, but moving emails and files got a little messy, and I just didn't get newsletter files onto the same machine until now. Sorry.

1. I am now established at the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at University of New Hampshire, and as I type, Dave Wells' voice reverberates down the corridor - he is lecturing to all seven Nippon Foundation GEBCO students. I spent more time driving in traffic than I liked, but picked up six students last week. The seventh had a hang up and only arrived yesterday, but we do now have a full slate. The first six have settled in well: in fact, Morishita-san even figured out the American railway system well enough to get to a baseball game in Boston all unaided.

Here is some basic information about our new recruits.

Name
Country
Affiliation
Previous Education

ANGWENYI, Clive Angwenyi
Kenya
Kenya Marine And Fisheries Research Institute
BSc math, MSC physical oceanog

KARLAPATI, Srinivas
India
National Institute of Oceanography
BSc, MSc, PhD Geology

MONTORO CACERES, Hugo Dante
Peru
Peruvian Hydrographic Service
B Maritime Science, Cat B Hydrography

MORISHITA, Taisei
Japan
Japan Coast Guard
BSc, MSc geology

MUSTAPHA, Abubakar Abdullahi
Nigeria
Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office
BSc Physics, MSc Hydrography

REYNOSO PERALTA, Walter Luis
Argentina
Hydrography Naval Service
BSc Geophysics, Naval Academy

SHARMA, Shereen Lata
Fiji
University of the South Pacific
BSc, MSc marine science

And here is a picture at a welcoming coffee and mingle session.



2. Andrew Goodwillie has completed copying all of Bob Fisher's bathymetric compilation sheets of the greater Indian Ocean area, and has sent them to John Hall and Norm Cherkis for scanning and digitizing. The incorporation of these data into the grid for the Indian Ocean and Environs has the potential to greatly improve its textural content in general and its accuracy.

3. As you all know only too well, one issue that plagues us is the conversion of analogue plots of soundings into useful digital format. There are still many areas of the ocean where

the bulk of, if not the only, bathymetric data exists as hand-inked soundings along tracks. This will certainly be the case for the areas adjacent to the home countries of some of the Nippon Foundation sponsored students who have begun their training at the University of New Hampshire. Many of us have devoted time and energy to converting such analogue data, and we have also been forced to work with it in its original form. One objective of the training is to teach the students to use bathymetric data in both formats, and with emphasis on the array of tools available for application to digital data. It will also be valuable to teach the conversion from analogue to digital forms.

One way of converting analogue plotting sheets to digital form is to scan them and have software do the bulk of the conversion work. Scanners large enough to accommodate most ocean plotting sheets are not common, but John Hall has arranged for the Margaret Kendrick Blodgett Foundation to make a grant of \$26,500 to the UNH Foundation so that CCOM can purchase one for the use of the GEBCO students at UNH. UNH has dedicated a computer to drive the scanner, and created a space to house it. This generous and far-sighted action will mean that our students can work on analogue sheets from their own geographic areas, converting them to digital format and using digital tools to work on the newly created files. This will make the exercise much more meaningful to the students, as well as creating digital files that can be used in GEBCO and IBC activities, and by the home country. John's action goes to the heart of many GEBCO problems and should add significantly to the value to all Ocean Mapping of the Nippon Foundation training program. John, a sincere Thank You!

4. Carla Moore at NGDC has finished making the updates and minor corrections to Andrew Goodwillie's GEBCO web-based document concerning the concepts behind the bathymetric grid. The new version is at:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/grid/concepts/concepts.pdf>

Many thanks to Andrew and Carla.

5. The students at UNH each received letters from President Sasakawa of the Nippon Foundation warmly welcoming them to the program. As well as the kind welcome, President Sasakawa's letter reminded the students of their responsibilities and the hopes that Nippon Foundation and GEBCO has for their futures.

6. Since receiving the Drake Medal, press releases on Bob Fisher and his Indian Ocean work have appeared in numerous publications and he has been invited to be guest speaker for an eminent group of explorer-types in Los Angeles.

That's all. I have a horrible feeling that I have left something out. It will probably pop into my head the moment I hit the send button.

Stay Well

Dave Monahan

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